

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact
October 19, 2000**

PURPOSE:	Review salmon stock status and consider non-Indian commercial fishing options.
TAC:	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u>Federally Listed Species</u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u>Cutthroat Trout</u>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<u>Oregon State Listed Species</u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.
- Lower Columbia River chum impacts in non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed 5% and are expected to be near 2%.

2000 Management Agreement

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the

aggregate URB run. The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

State Guidelines

- In May 2000 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that all fisheries will be managed such that aggregate impacts not exceed a 13.3% harvest rate on wild coho salmon destined for Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River.
- Harvest rates on LRW fall chinook should not exceed 10% in ocean and Columbia River fisheries in accordance with Washington state's wild salmonid policy.

Sturgeon Allocation

- The Joint State Accord on 2000-2002 Sturgeon Management sets forth an annual harvestable number of 50,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries absent any significant update.
- Harvestable number is allocated 80% sport (40,000 fish) and 20% commercial (10,000 fish).

2000 Coho Stock Status

- The preseason projection for Columbia River coho returns was 450,200 adults, including 253,600 early stock (highest since 1991) and 196,600 late stock (highest since 1991).

<i>Early Stock Coho Adult Returns to Columbia River Hatcheries</i>					
	Escapement				Comments
	Returns	As of:	Projected Total	Goal	
Grays River	8,400	10/12	10,000	1,240	Goal achieved.
Elokomin	5,100	10/12	8,000	510	Goal achieved.
Kalama	2,600	10/12	5,000	700	Goal achieved.
Toutle	13,400	10/12	25,000	1,480	Goal achieved.
Lewis	15,500	10/12	23,000	1,526	Goal achieved.
Total Washington	45,000		71,000	5,456	
Klaskanine	743	10/17	--	--	
Big Creek	2,183	10/17	--	700	Goal achieved.
Eagle Creek	19,030	10/17	--	3,300	Goal achieved.
Sandy	5,860	10/17	--	1,300	Goal achieved.
Bonneville	17,238	10/17	19,100	6,000	Goal achieved.
Total Oregon	45,060				
Bonneville Dam	58,922				

Early Stock

- Based on escapement to date and projected fishery catches, the 2000 early stock river mouth return projected to be near 280,000 which is larger than the preseason projection of 254,000.
- Clackamas River early stock wild coho passage is tracking well ahead of recent years with 1,887 adults passing North Fork Dam through October 17. Total return is expected to be near 2,000.
- Sandy River wild coho returns to date are also tracking well ahead of recent years with 399 adults passing Marmot Dam through October 17. Passage typically peaks in October.
- Based on fisheries that have occurred to date and proposed fisheries, impacts on wild coho are projected to be 13.1% for early stock and 10.3% for late stock.

Late Stock

- CPUE in Zones 1 and 2 was 70 during September 25-28, 55 on October 5, and 106 during October 9-13. Typically CPUE peaks in Week 42 (October 9-13).
- Historical relationships used to estimate late coho run size do not appear to be accurate for 2000.
- Washington hatcheries are just beginning to get late coho into the facilities. Returns to Cowlitz Hatchery through October 12 are 3,500 fish which typically represents about 14% of the total return. Lewis River hatchery does not start processing late coho until about October 20.
- Based on run size update and fishery catches to date late stock escapement goal of 15,200 is expected to be achieved.
- Clackamas River wild late stock coho typically enter the river beginning in late October and pass North Fork Dam during November through January.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery Update				
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Sep 18-Oct. 13	Oct. 16-20 Proj.
URB	370	2,600	990	130
BPH	120	480	0	0
MCB	350	2,160	1,150	110
LRH	550	300	100	0
LRW	0	0	210	0
LRB	0	220	250	30
SAB	30	0	20	0
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>5,830</i>	<i>3,180</i>	<i>270</i>
Coho	1	161	90,200	30,000
Chum	0	0	8	5
W. Sturgeon	2,357	301	1,920	1,000
G. Sturgeon	472	5	442	100

- An estimated 33,600 coho were landed in September fisheries which is similar to the preseason expectation of 35,000.
- Through October 13 an estimated 56,400 coho have been landed in October fisheries as compared to preseason expectation of 65,000 for the month of October.

2000 Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Update	
Fishery	Catch
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,282
Select Area winter/Spring/Summer Gillnet	500
August 3-4 Gillnet	2,357
Area 2S Gillnet (Aug 21-23)	301
Zones 4-5 Gillnet (Sept 19-20)	230
Select Area Fall Gillnet	155
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	2,885
Total Catch to Date (through October 17)	8,480

- White sturgeon catches through October 17 are estimated to be 8,500 fish which leaves 1,500 fish remaining on the 10,000 fish guideline.

Select Area Fisheries

- The Young's Bay Select Area fishery is open 7 days/week from September 5 through October 31 with catch expectations of 53,000 coho and 1,000 chinook.
- The Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River fisheries opened on September 5 and the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough fisheries opened September 7. All fisheries are scheduled to continue through the end of October except for Steamboat Slough, which ends on October 28.
- Catch expectations for the season are 10,000 coho in Deep River and 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Steamboat Slough.

Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update					
	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
Chinook	1,730	270	130	100	70
Coho	33,600	10,100	3,300	12,700	370
Chum	1	0	0	1	0
W. Sturgeon	90	60	9	0	1
G. Sturgeon	1	0	0	0	0

- Youngs Bay season total catches are projected to be 35,000 coho and 1,700 chinook.
- Select Area fisheries are nearly complete and season total coho catch projections are less than preseason expectations for Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough, more than the preseason expectation for Tongue Point, and similar to the preseason expectation for Deep River.

Fishery Proposals

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

<i>Proposed Coho/Sturgeon Season</i>	
Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Monday October 23 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5, except those areas from a line extending from the green Navigation Light 41 at the upper end of Cottonwood Island at right angle to the thread of the Columbia River to the Oregon shore upstream to a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No 4 thence to a fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size or 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size gillnets will be allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	3,000 coho <50 chinook <10 chum 500 white sturgeon

<i>Proposed Coho Target Season</i>	
Season:	7 AM Tuesday October 24 to 7 PM Friday October 27 (3-1/2 days) 7 PM Sunday October 30 to 7PM Tuesday October 31 (2 days)
Area:	Zones 1-5, except those areas from a line extending from the green Navigation Light 41 at the upper end of Cottonwood Island at right angle to the thread of the Columbia River to the Oregon shore upstream to a line projected from Warrior Rock to Red Buoy No. 4 thence to a fishing boundary marker on Bachelor Island.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	10,000-20,000 coho <100 chinook <50 chum 200 white sturgeon

<i>Proposed Sturgeon Season</i>	
Season:	7 AM - 7 PM Wednesday November 1 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Big Creek, Gnat Creek, Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-B, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in place.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	500 white sturgeon

Rationale:

- ✓ Gear and area restrictions will minimize fall chinook impacts.
- ✓ URB fall chinook impacts remain within limits set forth in the 2000 Management Agreement.
- ✓ Chum impacts will remain within limits set forth by the ESA.
- ✓ Wild coho impacts will remain within limits set forth by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, in conjunction with the Oregon State ESA listing.
- ✓ Coho target season will allow for harvest of surplus hatchery coho while minimizing impacts on listed chinook salmon. Fishing area was expanded to better focus on late stock coho returning to the Cowlitz River.
- ✓ Coho/sturgeon and sturgeon seasons will allow for orderly harvest of remaining commercial sturgeon allocation by early November.

Summary of Fishery Impacts								
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts		Total Steelhead	Wild Steelhead Impacts			
		No.	%		Group A Index		Group B Index	
					No.	%	No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries								
August C&S	225	165	0.1	2,660	400	0.6	60	0.7
Commercial	51,885	36,095	24.0	12,710	1,980	3.1	930	10.3
Late Fall C&S (Proj.)	220	180	0.1	3,000	630	0.6	210	2.3
Treaty Indian Total	52,330	36,440	24.16	18,370	3,010	4.7	1,200	13.3
Non-Indian Fisheries								
August Sturgeon Commercial	1,700	370		20	4		1	
August 2S Commercial	5,830	2,600		114	0		24	
September 18-October 13	3,200	990		23	2		2	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	1,840	40		4	1		0	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	6,200	1,100		54	0		2	
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	8,000	3,400		6,140	202		28	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	670	610		17,900	590		80	
October 16-20 (Proj.)	270	130		8	1		2	
Non-Indian Total to Date	27,710	9,240	6.13	24,278	801		141	
Proposed Fisheries	150	40	0.03	8	1		2	
Projected Non-Indian Total	77,860	9,280	6.15	24,286	802	1.25	141	1.55
Grand Total	80,190	45,720	30.32	42,648	3,541	5.5	1,341	14.9

Next Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that no additional Compacts be scheduled at this time.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
October 19, 2000